

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of making a lamp tube having a first end and a second end, the method comprising:

introducing a first quantity of a luminescent substance into a first end of the lamp tube; and

introducing a second quantity of a luminescent substance into the second end of the tube.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein introducing a first quantity of a luminescent substance into a first end of the lamp tube further comprises positioning the first end of the lamp tube at the first location in a tube treatment assembly prior to introducing the first quantity of the luminescent substance into the first end of the lamp tube, the method further comprising the step of repositioning the tube such that the second end is positioned at the first location prior to introducing the second quantity of luminescent substance into the second end of the tube.

3. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein positioning the first end of the lamp tube at the first location further comprises vertically orienting the tube in the tube treatment assembly, and repositioning the tube further comprises repositioning the tube in a vertically oriented position.

4. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the tube is oriented at an acute angle in the tube treatment assembly when one of the first end and second end are positioned at the first location.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
introducing a first quantity of air into the tube after introducing the first quantity of the luminescent substance, the first quantity of air drying the first quantity of luminescent substance; and

introducing a second quantity of air into the tube after introducing the second quantity of the luminescent substance, the second quantity of air drying the second quantity of luminescent substance.

6. (original) The method according to claim 5, wherein introducing the first quantity of air further comprises blowing the first quantity of air into the second end of the tube, and introducing the second quantity of air further comprises blowing the second quantity of air into the first end of the tube.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
cleaning a portion of an inside surface of the first end after introducing the first quantity of the luminescent substance; and
cleaning a portion of an inside surface of the second end after introducing the second quantity of the luminescent substance.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein introducing a first quantity of a luminescent substance further comprises introducing a first quantity of phosphor, and introducing a second quantity of a luminescent substance further comprises introducing a second quantity of phosphor.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein introducing a second quantity of a luminescent substance further comprises introducing a second quantity equivalent to the first quantity of a luminescent substance.

10. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein introducing a first quantity of luminescent substance further comprises applying a vacuum to the second end of the tube, the vacuum drawing the luminescent substance into the tube, and introducing a second quantity of luminescent substance further comprises applying a vacuum to the first end of the tube, the vacuum drawing the luminescent substance into the tube.

11. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein introducing a first quantity of a luminescent substance into a first end of the lamp tube further comprises introducing the first quantity of the luminescent substance into a first end of a cold cathode fluorescent lamp tube, and introducing a second quantity of a luminescent substance into a second end of the tube further comprises introducing a second quantity of the luminescent substance into a second end of the cold cathode fluorescent lamp tube.

12. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein introducing a first quantity of a luminescent substance into a first end of the lamp tube further comprises introducing the first quantity of the luminescent substance into a first end of a xenon lamp tube, and introducing a second quantity of a luminescent substance into a second end of the tube further comprises introducing a second quantity of the luminescent substance into a second end of a xenon lamp tube.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein introducing a first quantity of a luminescent substance into a first end of the lamp tube further comprises introducing the first quantity of the luminescent substance into a first end of a linear, cylindrical tube, and introducing a second quantity of a luminescent substance into a second end of the tube further comprises introducing a second quantity of the luminescent substance into a second end of the linear, cylindrical tube.

14-19. (canceled)

20. (new) An illumination source comprising a linear tube having a continuous, non-uniform distribution of a luminescent substance disposed thereon.

21. (new) The illumination source of Claim 20, the distribution having a greater density at opposite ends of the tube.

22. (new) The illumination source of Claim 20, the tube having an increasing distribution density measured outwardly from a midpoint of the tube.

23. (new) The illumination source of Claim 20, the tube having a non-linear distribution of the luminescent substance disposed thereon.

24. (new) The illumination source of Claim 20, the tube having a generally constant distribution density about a midsection thereof.

25. (new) An illumination source manufacturing method comprising forming a continuous, non-uniform distribution of a luminescent substance on a linear tube.

26. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein forming the distribution comprises forming the distribution having a greater density at opposite ends of the tube.

27. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein forming the distribution comprises forming an increasing distribution density measured outwardly from a midpoint of the tube.

28. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein forming the distribution comprises forming a non-linear distribution.

29. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein forming the distribution comprises forming a generally constant distribution density about a midsection of the tube.

30. (new) An illumination source manufacturing method comprising applying a distribution of a luminescent substance along a linear tube to produce a non-uniform radiation intensity along a length of the tube.

31. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein applying the luminescent substance distribution comprises applying the luminescent substance distribution to form a greater radiation intensity at opposite ends of the tube.

32. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein applying the luminescent substance distribution comprises applying the luminescent substance distribution to form a generally constant radiation intensity at a midsection of the tube.

33. (new) The method of Claim 30, applying the luminescent substance distribution comprises applying the luminescent substance distribution to form a gradually increasing radiation intensity measured outwardly from a midpoint of the tube.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of Claims 1-13 and 20-33. No fee is believed due with this Preliminary Amendment. If, however, Applicant has overlooked the need for any fee due with this Preliminary Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this Response to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company.

Respectfully submitted,

By: James L Baudino
James L Baudino
Reg. No. 43,486

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Correspondence to:
L.Joy Griebenow, Esq.
Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P. O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400
Tel. 970-898-3884